IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (withdrawn): A disposable wound-therapy device comprising:

a fluid impermeable housing having a cavity therein, wherein the cavity includes at least one opening adapted to encompass at least a portion of a wound region of a patient;

a perimeter surrounding the at least one opening;

means for sealing the perimeter to a surface of the patient proximate the wound region; and

means for at least one of absorbing and removing oxygen from within the cavity integrated into the housing.

Claim 2 (withdrawn): The wound-therapy device according to Claim 1, wherein the absorbing means is placed within the cavity.

Claim 3 (withdrawn): The wound-therapy device according to Claim 1, wherein the absorbing means comprises a chemical absorber.

Claim 4 (withdrawn): The wound-therapy device according to Claim 3, wherein the chemical absorber is selected from the group consisting of metal powders, activated carbon, catalyst material, zeolites and mixtures and combinations thereof.

Claim 5 (withdrawn): The wound-therapy device according to Claim 1, wherein the absorbing means comprises at least one electrochemical cell.

Claim 6 (withdrawn): The wound-therapy device according to Claim 5, wherein the electrochemical cell comprises a metal/air cell.

Claim 7 (withdrawn): The wound-therapy device according to Claim 6, wherein the metal/air cell comprises one of the group consisting of a zinc/air cell, a magnesium/air cell, an aluminum/air cell, and an iron/air cell.

Claim 8 (withdrawn): The wound-therapy device according to Claim 5, wherein the electrochemical cell comprises a nafion-based cell.

Claim 9 (withdrawn): The wound-therapy device according to Claim 1, additionally comprising means for absorbing fluid associated with the cavity.

Claim 10 (withdrawn): The wound-therapy device according to Claim 9, wherein the fluid-absorbing means comprises an antimicrobial material.

Claim 11 (withdrawn): The wound-therapy device according to Claim 10, wherein the antimicrobial materials comprise one or more materials selected from the group consisting of silver compounds, halide compounds, peroxides, super oxides, and organic disinfectants.

Claim 12 (withdrawn): The wound-therapy device according to Claim 9, wherein the fluid-absorbing means comprises a porous material.

Claim 13 (withdrawn): The wound-therapy device according to Claim 12, wherein the porous material comprises an adhesive mesh.

Claim 14 (withdrawn): The wound-therapy device according to Claim 1, wherein the housing comprises one or more materials selected from the group consisting of steel, aluminum, copper alloys, and dense plastics.

Claim 15 (withdrawn): The wound-therapy device according to Claim 14, wherein the dense plastics comprise materials selected from the group consisting of polypropylene, polyvinyl chlorides, polyethylene, berex, nylon, and Teflon.

Claim 16 (withdrawn): The wound-therapy device according to Claim 1, further comprising a valve associated with the housing, wherein the valve comprises means for introducing additional oxygen into the cavity.

Claim 17 (currently amended): A disposable wound-therapy device comprising:

- a fluid-impermeable housing having a cavity therein, wherein the cavity includes at least one opening adapted to encompass at least a portion of a wound region of a patient, and a chamber for receiving a fluid;
- a perimeter surrounding the at least one opening;
- means for sealing the perimeter to a surface of the patient proximate the wound region; and
- a porous sponge associated with the cavity, wherein the sponge is capable of retaining a fluid therein; and
- an osmotic cell, having an osmotic membrane, positioned between the cavity and the chamber, for removing the fluid from the sponge, and transporting it said fluid into the chamber.

Claim 18 (previously presented): The wound-therapy device according to Claim 17, wherein the osmotic cell is integrated into the housing.

Claim 19 (original): The wound-therapy device according to Claim 17, wherein the porous sponge comprises an antimicrobial material.

Claim 20 (previously presented): The wound-therapy device according to Claim 17, wherein the porous sponge is configured to be at least partially impregnated with a fluid immediately prior to use.

Claim 21 (previously presented): The wound-therapy device according to Claim 20, wherein the porous sponge comprises an antimicrobial fluid.

Claim 22 (previously presented): The wound-therapy device according to Claim 17, wherein the chamber is adjacent the cavity, wherein the osmotic cell removes a fluid from the porous sponge into the chamber.

Claim 23 (original): The wound-therapy device according to Claim 17, wherein the porous sponge is at least partially within the cavity.

Claim 24 (withdrawn): The wound-therapy device according to Claim 17, wherein the removing means comprises a super-polymer absorber.

Claim 25 (withdrawn): The wound-therapy device according to Claim 24, wherein the super-polymer absorber is one or more crystals selected from the group consisting of sodium polyacrylate and polyacrylamide.

Claim 26 (previously presented): The wound-therapy device according to Claim 17, wherein the osmotic membrane is in fluidic communication with the porous sponge.

Claims 27-29 (cancelled)

Claim 30 (withdrawn): The wound-therapy device according to Claim 17, wherein the housing comprises a material that is resiliently deformable upon application of a pressure.

Claim 31 (withdrawn): The wound-therapy device according to Claim 30, wherein the removing means comprises depressing a portion of the resiliently deformable housing to, in turn, create a negative pressure over the wound.

Claim 32 (withdrawn): The wound-therapy device according to Claim 17, wherein the removing means comprises a syringe associated with the housing, which may withdraw any fluid retained within the sponge.

Claim 33 (withdrawn): The wound-therapy device according to Claim 30, the housing having a fluid-retention chamber adjacent the porous sponge, wherein the removing means comprises a one-way valve between the porous sponge and the fluid-retention chamber such that, upon application of pressure, fluid is removed from the sponge and into the fluid-retention chamber.

Claim 34 (currently amended): A disposable wound-therapy device comprising:

- a fluid impermeable housing having a cavity therein and a retention chamber, wherein the cavity includes a sponge and at least one opening adapted to encompass at least a portion of a wound region of a patient;
- a perimeter substantially surrounding the at least one opening; and

- an osmotic cell, having an osmotic membrane, positioned between the chamber and the cavity, for removing fluid from within the cavity, and transporting ~~it~~ said fluid into the retention chamber.

Claim 35 (previously presented): The device according to Claim 34, wherein the osmotic cell continuously removes the fluid from within the wound region.

Claim 36 (previously presented): The device according to Claim 34, wherein the osmotic cell is integrated into the housing.

Claim 37 (withdrawn): The device according to Claim 34, further comprising at least one capillary tube to facilitate removal of fluid from the cavity.

Claim 38 (withdrawn): The device according to Claim 34, further comprising an absorbent polymer to facilitate removal of fluid from the cavity.

Claim 39 (previously presented): The device according to Claim 34, wherein the retention chamber is external to the cavity, and associated with the osmotic cell, such that fluid removed from the cavity is delivered to the retention chamber.

Claim 40 (previously presented): The device according to Claim 34, wherein the retention chamber additionally comprises means for absorbing and retaining fluid.

Claim 41 (original): The device according to Claim 40, wherein the absorbing and retaining means comprises a porous matrix.

Claim 42 (withdrawn): The wound-therapy device according to Claim 34, wherein the housing comprises a material that is resiliently deformable upon application of a pressure.

Claim 43 (withdrawn): The wound-therapy device according to Claim 39, wherein the removing means comprises depressing a portion of the resiliently deformable housing to, in turn, create a negative pressure over the wound.

Claim 44 (withdrawn): The wound-therapy device according to Claim 34, wherein the removing means comprises a syringe associated with the housing, which may withdraw any fluid retained within the sponge.

Claim 45 (withdrawn): A device for promoting healing of a wound region, comprising:
at least one device capable of exerting an approximately downward pressure on at least two tissue regions of a patient surrounding the wound region, wherein the at least two tissue regions are located distally from each other across the wound region; and
means for maintaining the exerted pressure for one or more hours.

Claim 46 (withdrawn): The device according to Claim 45, wherein the at least one device comprises at least two pressure bands, which bands may be placed around an appendage and

proximate the wound region, wherein the exerted pressure maintaining means comprises constructing the pressure bands from a resiliently elastic material.

Claim 47 (withdrawn): The device according to Claim 45, wherein the wound region includes an open wound area and a perimeter surrounding the open wound area, and the device includes means for substantially closing the open wound area by forcing at least a first region of the perimeter towards a second region of the perimeter.

Claim 48 (withdrawn): The device according to Claim 47, wherein the closing means comprises means for connecting the at least two pressure bands together.

Claim 49 (withdrawn): The device according to Claim 47, wherein the closing means comprises an adhesive strip capable of bridging across the open wound area.

Claim 50 (withdrawn): A method of promoting healing of a wound region, comprising the steps of:

placing a device capable of exerting an approximately downward pressure on at least two tissue regions of a patient surrounding the wound region; and

exerting a downward pressure on the at least two tissue regions using the device, to, in turn, substantially close the wound region.

Claim 51 (withdrawn): The method according to Claim 50, further comprising the step of associating an absorbent material with the wound region to, in turn, removing wound fluid from within the wound region.

Claim 52 (previously presented): The device according to Claim 17, wherein the osmotic cell further comprises a salt.

Claim 53 (previously presented): The device according to Claim 52, wherein the salt is a salt solution.

Claim 54 (previously presented): The device according to Claim 52, wherein the salt is a salt tablet.

Claim 55 (cancelled)

Claim 56 (previously presented): The device according to Claim 17, further comprising a water injection means.

Claim 57 (previously presented): The device according to Claim 34, wherein the osmotic cell further comprises a salt.

Claim 58 (previously presented): The device according to Claim 56, wherein the salt is a salt solution.

Claim 59 (previously presented): The device according to Claim 56, wherein the salt is a salt tablet.

Claims 60-63 (cancelled)

Claim 64 (previously presented): The device according to Claim 34, further comprising a water injection means.